

Say cheese!

By BEN STICKLAND

It's time to show your snap and grin, at least if you are going to have a graduation photo taken this week.

Students must register at photography.concordia.ca. When you arrive for your photos, you will need to bring your student card and \$10. Photos are being taken in Room 34122 at the Ross campus, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"CSI has a third party for production photos, it is Studio Montage," CSI president Daren Byrne said.

The production crew and cap will be provided, but make sure you wear a white collared shirt or blouse, and a tie if you're a male. After your pictures are taken, you will be shown a preview of the pictures. Your proofs will be available on the registration site 48 hours after your appointment, and you will be able to purchase a package up to a month after your sitting.

For more information, visit photography.concordia.ca or call 1-888-337-9847.



CHICOPEE

WINNING

WARM WEATHER

BATTLE

PHOTO BY STEVEN LARSEN

The warm winter has created a lot more work for Chicopee Ski Patrol staff, who have made more than 20 million gallons of snow so far this season. Despite the today temperatures, the Kitchener sport has remained open, and has had excellent conditions. Left, a snowcatter clears the snow.

For story and additional photos see Page 5.



Vikings play
Queens

Women's basketball battles, but loses in overtime.
Page 14

SPOKE

A LEARNING NEWSROOM FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Arkells rock
the 14-0-0

Rock band leaves fans at nightclub waiting more.
Page 15

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, NOTCHWICH, ONT.

WWW.SPOKEONLINE.COM

44TH YEAR - PG. 1

Safety and Security Services operates 24/7



PHOTO BY ANDREW DELANEY

An emergency safety line in Lot 14 connects the shops, staff and faculty to Dean's Safety and Security Services which is open 24/7.

By ANDREW DELANEY

College is a conflict we all have to play in.

However, not all of us have used the code of conduct before entering the academy, which is one of the reasons why Safety and Security Services exists.

Tucked away in her back corner office of the Safety and Security Services Department in Bank Building.

With a background originating in Concordia's law enforcement and investigation program, Richdale now oversees day-to-day operations, which includes monitoring activity on any one of approximately 200 cameras on campus.

"I love it," she said, as she scrolled through her computer's display of numerous views throughout the campus.

There's no such thing as a daily routine here, she said, as meetings and appointments are constantly broken at a moment's notice when emergencies arise.

When they do come up, the first on scene are typically people whom Richdale has shown students have Barker College membership on the alert. The security firm is contracted by the school for terms of three years. Their employees on campus are mostly part

time students, and Richdale.

After the dust has settled and an incident needs further investigation, the second tier of the department's workforce steps in. These representatives are distinguished by their white shirts.

II

In rare cases, students must complete community service.

— Mike Downing

III

When an altercation has concluded and a disciplinary action is required, the task moves up and out of Dean's main building to the office of the vice-president of student affairs, located in the Student and Career Services building.

Mike Downing, who has been the VP of student affairs for the past seven years, is the last person a student will see if his or her conduct has been deemed unacceptable and requires disciplinary action. After a student code of conduct has been filed out and approved, Downing will sit down with the student to hear his or her

side of the story and hopefully agree on an informal resolution.

These often include an agreement between the student and Downing that the appropriate action will stop and an apology given to the victim.

In most cases, students must complete community service or more still, the student is suspended or expelled from the school.

Students are generally not people with Downey, who is supported by saying that no one else has been suspended or expelled.

However, students have been removed from school property in the past, according to Don White, director of Safety and Security Services. On average, he said, three to four students find themselves barred from the school each year.

Even though these decisions can only be made by Downing, White said that on occasion when a student's safety is being threatened by an individual, he has the authority to suspend a student for a few days until the case ends.

Although student union and respecting one another can go a long way in preventing students from missing class time, Richdale and every student has a responsibility to read and know the student code of conduct.

It's 175 pounds and counting

Fundraiser held to help man see a nutritionist and maintain a healthy lifestyle

By MARILYN C. MORGAN

Loosing weight can be expensive, especially if one needs to lose a certain amount to get surgery.

For 39-year-old Antonio Vargas of Kitchener, it has been a rough journey but to continue to lose weight with the support of his friends and family.

A fundraiser for Vargas was held at the Mason Lodge in Kitchener on Feb. 21, with pro-

ceeds helping him to continue to see a nutritionist and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, he has a peak loss with his hernia and was told in order to operate on it, he has to lose weight.

Throughout his life, it's been a struggle to take pounds off but when times at was difficult, Vargas said. It started again, exactly one month ago when his cancer treated them both to look good for his upcoming wedding. Vargas began to work out by himself regularly and was honored by trainer Sergio Gomez.

"He was on the treadmill and walking at a slow pace. I motivated him for about two months working out but he was motivated to working out before I approached him and said, 'I'll train you (for free) if you come into the club.'"

I give a lot of thanks to my trainer, who helps me lose every day.
— Antonio Vargas

In the beginning of May last year, he weighed 350 pounds and with Gomez's help, he has managed to lose around 175 pounds. He is very thankful and wants to get healthier. "I want to lose at least another 100 pounds. I want to be able to do things I can enjoy for exercise like to do," he said.

The fundraiser was organized by his family and close friends. There was a 210 cover fee which included a chance to win a door prize. A local band called The Daughters played throughout the event while Chinese food was being sold. Several games such as mini bowling were played by guests with proceeds helping to pay.

So far, he has been progress well according to Gomez. "It's just doing exercise, the breathing is better, the walking is better, his self-confidence, all that stuff has gone up."

Although it is challenging to exercise while his hernia hurts, he continues to work hard and keeps his attitude positive.

"I was just surprised for me just last week," he said, adding once his hernia is repaired he is going to work out harder. "I give a lot of thanks to my trainer who helps me lose every day," he said.



PHOTO BY MARILYN C. MORGAN

Antonio Vargas, left, who is shown with friends Lydia Torres and Melina Jacinto. In thankful his family and friends have supported him during his battle to lose weight.

Be the difference
RESPECT Week

CLOTHESLINE PROJECT

Join us in celebrating International Women's Day!
Decorate your own t-shirt and add it to our Clothesline

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 29TH
10AM-1PM
STUDENT LIFE CENTRE
LOWER ATRIUM

All proceeds support
Women's Crisis Services
of Waterloo Region

Since 1990, colleges and university campuses around the world have organized "Clothesline Projects" to celebrate healthy relationships and raise awareness of violence against women.

Hosted by
Col Student Life
& **REP**

Hold government accountable

By KAREN BAYNE

Getting from A to B at a reasonable cost is a valuable financial goal for many Canadians. While the airlines believe their shareholders and carefully budget their senior expenses, others spend a pretty penny on transportation, thanks to our national money tree.

The Prime Minister's Office had \$2.6 million in travel expenses between 2010 and 2011, according to an article in the *Globe and Mail* on Feb. 12. These travel costs included transportation, meals and accommodations.

Although a \$200,000 decrease from the previous year, taxpayers have paid for money expensive trips.

The chief of defence staff, Gen. Walter Hinton, spent nearly \$1.5 million between 2009 and 2011, using a government-owned aircraft, including flights for a personal Caribbean holiday, the *Globe and Mail* article said. In 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's national security adviser, Stephen Harper, spent \$120,000 for two round-trip flights to Singapore.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay used a military aircraft and a private helicopter to deliver him down a personal fishing vacation to sea support in Newfoundland. According to an article in *Maclean's* magazine in January 2012, that ride cost taxpayers \$18,000.

According to the *Globe and Mail* article, appropriate spending guidelines were outlined as an internal government memo in 2009 and indicated a temporary cap on long-distance travel.

Three years later a third-class meeting was called in Ottawa on Feb. 15 to discuss ways MPs can restrain overall spending. At that meeting several proposals proved to be a shot in the air, and Ottawa Bureau Chief Robert Fife

"A lot of things are upset. They don't want to have fewer flights. They don't want to lose their business class flights," Fife said.

While many expenditures fit under the rubric of most Canadians, it is important to remain aware and educated. Hard-earned taxpayer dollars are spent without accountability as a Canadian citizen, take the time to become knowledgeable of our country's expenses. And when you hear of waste and outrageous spending, complain, complain, complain to your MPP and/or MP.

The above herein expressed the position of the newspaper, not necessarily the author.



"Another successful federal trade mission"

My hometown is where my heart is

There is just something about being from a small town.

One main street, one high school, one Tim Hortons and one taxi may seem like a terrible place to grow up to a lot of people. Except people that have done just that.

Having been raised in the township that is Mount Pleasant, where the population of 6,000 knows everything about you, and you have a family tree planted somewhere along Highway 8, it is more beautiful than you can ever imagine.

"You don't have a Wal-Mart" or "We don't have only 100 students in your entire high school" are just a few of the future people take into account before deciding that people from small towns lead an extremely sheltered life.

But when you dig a little deeper, there is plenty to be grateful about.

There is a sense of home wherever you are in most small towns. And while small towns live in larger cities get a sense of the whole and don't about in their



Sarah Shaw
Opinion

own neighbourhood, imagine that feeling in an entire community.

It is almost impossible to walk down the street with out offering a dozen "hello's" or "how are you's." And it might not be because that's exactly the most, people are just friendlier in a small town.

In my younger days we didn't have winter days. We had snow weeks. When we got out of the schools. An average arrives by a bus that he's to travel every mile and country road with a 20 minute radius, not to mention a highway that is closed most of the winter, school gets cancelled a lot.

Say you forget something in the local bakery, or left your coat behind while shopping. Although personal interest

and delivery isn't in most businesses' job description, I guarantee it will get back to you within the day. If you have a message waiting in your answering machine when you get home.

And the best way to spend your time out of school was at the movies or at some neighbour's. Summer nights were spent in family drinking hours, not long drives down the road, wearing temporary coats in parks and spending late nights with friends at the town's drive at a bar.

Kelly O'Brien, a best-selling author and founder of marketing firm People's Revolution, said "And your life is spent trying to get out of a small town and the other half trying to get back to one."

The best part is being able to look back on it. Whether you're remembering those your precious apartment in Toronto, or your school can't see in Australia, your memories will always be with you.

Because the best thing about living in a small town is that it will always be there when you come home.

Letters are welcome

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include the name and telephone number of the writer. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the publication.

No unsigned letters will be published.

Letters should be no longer than 100 words.

Spoke reserves the right to edit any letters for publication.

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The Editor, Spoke, 220

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Room 1020, Kitchener, Ont.
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SPOKE

IS PUBLISHED AND PRODUCED WEEKLY BY THE JOURNALISM STUDENTS OF CONESTOGA COLLEGE

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ORCHESTRATING THE BEATLES

by **ERIC HAZARD**

People, young and old, were pointing and shouting along with the music of the Beatles, played by Classical Mystery Tour and the K.W. Symphony Orchestra at Centre in the Square on Feb. 11.

"It's nice to be able to actually hear the songs this way," says a young boy. "When I saw them [the Beatles] in the '60s, all I could hear was guitar screaming," says Catherine Wood, 87, of Bedford. The cover band Classical Mystery Tour did an excellent job mimicking every instrument, vocal and musical arrangement to

classic such as Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band and Yesterday, which sounded at the heart strings of the older, screaming crowd.

Although the Beatles themselves never put the opportunity to play their music alive in a way with an orchestra, the symphony was intense. "Another thing the Beatles never did was orchestrate our music!" joked Tony Robinson, the Phil McCartney look-alike and vocalist, bass and piano player of Classical Mystery Tour. The band was rounded out by John Lennon look-alike, vocalist, piano and guitar player Jim Owen, George Harrison stand-in, vocalist and lead guitarist John Bennett and Chris Cavallini, Ringo Starr look-alike, drummer and vocalist.

K.W.'s constant conductor Evan Mitchell led the K.W. Symphony Orchestra on the podium that accompanied the classic instruments, which added an incredible sound to songs such as that to that You Got My Love, with its sweeping and striking trumpet leads, or Tomorrow Never Knows, almost hypnotic vocal duets.

"If you closed your eyes you could see you were listening to the album version of songs such as All You Need Is Love and A Day in the Life, which fans of the Fab Four will remember as much as a symphony of sound in the final climax. The strings and horns of the K.W. symphony played precisely and beautifully.

Real songs such as I Am the Walrus, which have never been orchestrated, were played purely from the instrumental arrangement, helping Classical Mystery Tour create a more accurate experience for the audience.

The cover band made an effort to make the

show more of an experience by changing clothing from the different Beatles eras, such as the colorful military garb from Magical Mystery Tour, and the suits and ties from the early years. At one point Owen put a long-haired, long-sleeved wig on and purple glasses.

If everyone wasn't holding down memory lane through the final lineup of songs that made their two-hour song set ready took them all the way there.

Reprising with Golden Slimmers, with horns such as "you there was a way to get back home," more people were reliving the emotions of youth.

Curry Tom Wright turned on the saxophone and sounded more powerful with the pulsing brass instruments and whopping strings, adding a lot of emphasis to a song with a lively meaning and vibrant lyrics.

To conclude the concert, they played The End, which featured guitar guitar solos from Owen and Bennett, played to perfection. One of the most joyful moments of the night was when the band played the final song, "Let It Be," which was led by the orchestra, "And in the end the love you take is equal to the love you make."

The Classical Mystery Tour returned to play Hey Jude and Twist and Shout as an encore to an overjoyed audience that then began to dance.

It wasn't all older people dancing and was young. There were many children, teenagers and young people, peppered into the vibrant crowd. "It was a great experience that could be experienced by the chance to hear music," said one of the young people. "Why not have all these young people here?" and the band replied, "Because the Beatles are the best band ever."

Symphony adds traditional sound to modern classic

by **ANDREW DAVIS**

The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony may have a show or two about putting on a show. However, this time they took a step back allowing the Fab Four to step into the spotlight.

With the first of two shows on Feb. 11, the second the following day at Centre in the Square, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony performed a set of Beatles songs, creating gritty rock with age-old sounds.

Despite its boisterous sound of the Beatles—the piano and love thing gets old—it's just what we'll with a live orchestra. The orchestra's role remains subtle enough as to not overpower the rock of the Beatles, yet maintain a strong enough presence to be noticed and

create a unique experience.

Musicians will often enhance their songs with unique sounds via an array of non-traditional instruments. The Beatles were no different. However, this means an apparent concern—how to recreate these songs live.

But in 2011, Canadian alt-rock artist Matthew Good told the Waterloo Region Record, "If you give your musician the ability to just go and create without any of those constraints, you would probably see a lot of them use a lot of instrumentation and doing a lot of different things than just putting up electric guitars."

Unfortunately, many of today's artists are not fortunate enough to have the means needed to hire an orchestra.

However, every now and a while under unique circumstances, we are given the opportunity to hear live recreations of our favorite tunes on orchestras and all.

George Hage was a prime example of the power of an orchestra. The symphony started at the rear of the stage, remained isolated throughout the majority of the song, allowing the four live the opportunity to do their thing. However, during the chorus—the last moment of musical chaos—the band works. Woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion created a deep roar.

Together, the band and orchestra performed an outstanding show, sharing the

stage and contributing to a memorable night for those in attendance.

It later dawned on me that the strong sense of momentum is what made this particular show so great. It wasn't about modern versus traditional—the Beatles versus the K.W. Symphony Orchestra. Neither set tried to overpower the other. The humble orchestra played only when necessary, complementing the original songs.

Some might argue that a good record track would do the song a similar justice. Actually, that is probably true. However, most of us go to a music venue for the visual performance. The ability to see an orchestra makes the experience much more intimate.

If always interesting to see two very different mediums collaborate. These collaborations can go either way—classical or rock. On this occasion, it was successful. As a result, elderly young and middle aged all attended the concert.

Part of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony's Hope Series, the symphony will be making to bring similar events to the area in the future. Whether you like the music or not, it's a great opportunity to see a similar show. Not only are they lucky to experience with tickets starting at \$15, but they will also give you a lot of respect for the orchestra and its potential.



Chicopee fights uphill battle



BY KEVIN BAKER

"When people don't see snow on their front yards, they just don't think of going skiing."

This is the sad truth for Chicopee Ski Resort, spoken by guest services employee, Kate Burgen.

Burgen said this is the slowest season she's seen at the hill and it's no surprise, considering this year's winter has been one of the five warmest in the 15 years that weather record keeping has started at Chicopee.

It just so happens that Chicopee has opened just as long, having been founded in 1977.

Since its opening, it has become one of the top ski destinations in the province, bringing in an average of about 100,000 winter guests every year, according to the resort's site.

With temperatures reaching record highs this year, however, it's made for wet and slippy conditions.

Due to the warm weather and despite the millions of dollars of snow that were made, Chicopee didn't even open until Dec. 28, two weeks later than usual.

Chicopee member Dana Freeman has made the best of the bad conditions.

"I've been here every week-end since Christmas," said Freeman. "I've been covered in splatters off the skis on the lifts. Completely covered in snow."

"When it rains, the skiers on the chairlifts drop mud. They drop mud everywhere. It's gross, my yellow ski jacket was black."

But only at it Freeman's second visit to the resort, which at Chicopee, but it's her second

season there at all, since she just moved last year. And though she wishes the season had started earlier, she doesn't blame the management at Chicopee.

"You can't really make Mother Nature do anything and they sure make tons of snow here. They worked really, really hard to get this hill open and you can see that."

Throughout a regular season, Chicopee makes about 30 million gallons of snow. This season, they have already reached that mark, and according to their manager of business development, Lori McCrex, there's no end in sight.

"Usually, at this point, we're not making more anymore because we've got a lot more natural snow," she said. "I think that we're going to find that we'll be making more longer into the season, to make sure that all the lifts are maintained into March levels."

Though they have been striving to create favorable conditions on the hill, Chicopee has still seen a drop in business this year.

But it's not just the snow that makes when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

Amanda Trapp is a manager at McMaster Sports, the equipment shop at Chicopee, and has seen the business through the hard times. "When there's nothing out here, there there's not going to be anyone buying. When Chicopee doesn't have good traffic, neither do we."

Jade Laframenc is an employee at McMaster Sports and isn't just disappointed in the slow business.

"I mean when it's raining and stuff it's just not the

right" conditions to come out," she said. "I have a four-year-old that would be coming out with me so I'd rather bring her out when the great conditions are opposed to sloppy conditions. If she comes out in sloppy conditions and she doesn't enjoy it, then it would make it hard for her to want to come back out."

It's the same story from many, young or old, and that's why Chicopee has been pushing events.

"What we're trying to do is make the events better and better," said McCrex. "So we run them and learn from them, we're trying to make them a better experience... we have youth day, ladies day, family day, men's day and a number of other events."

During the events, lift tickets are offered at reduced rates and there are many free products and services available, such as ski clinics.

All this is in vain, however, if the masses don't know about it. And the staff at Chicopee has been working hard to get the message out.

"We've been doing a lot of marketing and advertising to let people know that there is snow on the hill and that the conditions are awesome," said McCrex. "And now they come, they're having a great experience, but it's just letting everybody know that has been our biggest challenge."



A close-up of skin when the rock at Chicopee



A snowboarder sheds the gear in the snowboard park at the resort on Feb. 23.



It's there are still even though conditions are good at Chicopee



PIN G

into another season

TAP

By JERRIL MARTIN

The fun has been on the front of maple syrup bottles since 1966 and has rapidly spread across the world, but for the Martins family, Aunt Jennifer's year doesn't cut it.

Feed Martin, who is president of the Waterloo Wellington Maple Syrup Producers Association, has

been producing his own maple syrup under the Most Honourable Maple Products label for the past 34 years.

Wearing a paper check and readily available across the region, the family reaps the benefits of their labour — as much as that, too hard to go back to the "late stuff." When the Martins close at a restaurant, a main bottle of their homemade syrup accompanies them.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Canada produces at five per cent of the world's maple syrup, valued at over \$213 million annually. Ontario, second to Quebec in terms of product value, is home to 2,600 producers with an estimated 1.8 million taps and an annual production of more than one million litres of syrup.

About 50 per cent of the province's maple syrup is produced by operations using a planetary collection system, with the remaining 50 per cent relying on traditional bucket-tapping procedures.

Martin is among the majors in adopting newer technologies, including turning to

his blackberry as a useful resource. When the temperature rises at night, the tap begins to flow, and from his bed, Martin receives email alerts, letting him know when it's going on in the bush.

It takes time, precision and hard work.

— Feed Martin

The Ontario climate, cold winters with sunny, spring thaws, creates the perfect conditions for making syrup. Producers begin tapping trees when the temperature hovers around 5°C during the day and 3°C at night, and when the long-range forecast shows the weather will hold long enough to make tapping worthwhile.

However, some years the weather doesn't cooperate — like this year with the mild winter — and Martin and his doesn't have high expectations.

"It's very rare that you have two exceptional seasons in a row, and last season was exceptional with us producing about 2,600 gallons."

This year, the lack of snow may affect the flow of sap.

"You want more snow sitting on top of the ground so that

the frost won't go so deep. If the frost goes deep it can take longer to come out and you won't get as much as you want," he said. "And by the time the snow starts to come, the trees are going to leaf out and you'll kind of miss your season."

The season is usually at its peak intensity beginning the first week of March and goes the about five to six weeks. Martin and the producers method for making the sap collecting trees is more complicated than most people would imagine.

"It's not just a sawhorse, saw and simple process where you hang buckets from trees and magically have syrup," he said. "It takes time, precision and hard work."

The most complex of steps in the process is tapping. Martin said it's a mix of science and art to find the tap and get it in the most convenient of ways that is least

of. "It's a super construction in more ways than one," he said. "You have to be super careful."

test of an expert collector. One degree there is one glass of success in 100 glasses of collection. The tap has to reach 60 degrees. Just below it can be called maple syrup.

Jared Martin, 11, year old son, helps out with the tapping and can be almost as good as his dad.

"It's relaxing and I like spending time out in the bush," he said. "But as for my dad, he's pretty passionate about it."

Feed said he doesn't plan on leaving the business anytime soon.

"This is something I can see doing even in my eighteenth year," he said. "I won't be involved in the extent that I am now, but I enjoy it too much to quit."

Jared Martin holds the old-fashioned spools they used to use to tap trees. They now use plastic spools to go into the plastic tubing for collecting sap.

— JERRIL MARTIN



Left: There are different grades of syrup. The lighter syrup is sweeter and as it gets darker it starts to get bitter and taste strongly of maple.

Right: Last year the Martins produced 2,600 gallons of maple syrup which is an exceptional amount, but that said it's rare to have two exceptional years in a row.



HOROSCOPE

Week of Feb. 27, 2006



Aries

March 21 -
April 19

Share your feelings with others, they may be able to help you overcome your obstacles.



Libra

September 23 -
October 23

You are facing health decisions this week, maybe this is a good time to start fresh.



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Don't be afraid to undertake new studies. Staying within the same could may have become too much for you.



Scorpio

October 23 -
November 21

You will find yourself expressing your emotions more frequently than normal, but allow it to happen.



Gemini

May 21 - June 21

You will need to organize your priorities, you have major decisions that need to be made.



Sagittarius

November 22 -
December 21

Keep yourself going this week, you will feel positive, happy, loved when you have nothing to do.



Cancer

June 22 - July 22

You will be very sensitive for the time being, but do not let the fears of your sign go unaddressed.



Capricorn

December 22 -
January 19

Leave emotions out of decision making. Staying organized and motivated will move you well.



Leo

July 23 - August 23

Your ability to multitask will serve you well this week. Just don't take on too many tasks.



Aquarius

January 20 -
February 18

Enjoy the company of those you love this week, you need to be surrounded with positive energy.



Virgo

August 23 -
September 23

Your sense of togetherness and the search to find your soulmate will spark a romantic streak in you.



Pisces

February 19 -
March 20

Spend your time allowing personal relationships to grow, everyone knows you have helped others with theirs.

SERENADING CAMBRIDGE MAYOR DOUG CRAIG



PHOTO BY JAMES HARRISON

An open singer serenades Cambridge's mayor Doug Craig, during the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra's performance at City Hall on Feb. 20. The symphony celebrated with the audience and entertained them about the history of the songs.

1 in 5 survives.
We can all do better.

Today, 1 in 5 people with diabetes survives heart disease.
Reverse the trend.

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Canadian Diabetes



Kenneth Belliveau is the resident astrologist who passed into the afterlife and now at gazing back for the last time, causing the universe to unfold before him.

Home sweet home

International student leaves young daughter to study abroad

BY MICHAEL PERIN

"Where are the money, can you help me find them?" Jenny asked her mom.
"Can you go get candy to help you find them later?" answered her mother.
"Money can't find them for you right now."

With a solemn look on her face, Monica Chen watches her daughter via the computer screen in search for a pair of scissors to cut her craft with. Chen sees her daughter struggle to grip the pair of scissors once she's found them, and begins to think maybe coming to Canada was not the right choice.

"Look it's done money!" confirmed Jenny with great pride as she held her prize up to the screen for her mother to see.

"That is an beautiful Jenny! Can you hand it to mommy?"

"No silly, you are in the computer! You can't have it until you come home."

Chen's role in her world turned into a heart-wrenching job.

11

When I thought of Canada all I knew was Vancouver and Ontario, and so I chose Ontario to be different... I heard about Conestoga College from friends who lived in Canada, and they only had good things to say.

— Monica Chen

12

"You're right I am silly, I love you Jenny!"
A 18-hour flight separates Monica Chen from her two sons and her four-year-old daughter, Jenny, who remains in China. As if being a student isn't difficult enough, now in being a parent and having the responsibility of a family. Now add in the fact that 11,000 kilometers separates you and your family and you will begin to understand and empathize. Chen deals with on a daily basis.

It is no secret that she misses her family constantly, she was homesick during her first two weeks in Canada. Now days and long distances

phone calls are the only contact she has with her loved ones.

Making the decision to come to Canada was not an easy one. However, when it came to choosing a school and program, there was really only one obvious choice. Conestoga College's post-graduate nursing media program.

Studying abroad was always something Chen and her husband had both wanted to do but never got the chance after attending university in China.

"There are too many Asians in Vancouver," joked Chen. "When I thought of Canada all I knew was Vancouver and Ontario, and so I chose Ontario to be different. I heard about Conestoga College from friends who lived in Canada, and they only had good things to say."

So Chen bade her husband goodbye and gave her daughter her one last hug and tucked in a pillow to Kitchener. As exciting as all of the changes in her life were, Chen still wasn't sure about leaving her family.

Chen is a medicalist in China. Chen thought she had the upper hand with all of her real-world experience. She would soon come to find out that there would be some major obstacles in her way before she successfully got a handle on the new media program at the college.

"It's hard to be a postmaster in a different language," said Chen. "I worked so hard on my first poem story and I did so bad I almost cried."

"It is hard because I can sometimes understand what people are saying but I don't understand the context," said Chen. For example, the Chinese political system is set up completely different than Canada's, and while her classmates were talking about an election and certain candidates, Chen had very little understanding of what her classmates were referring to.

It was frustration at Conestoga that helped bring Chen out of her shell, even though it was very difficult for her to grasp the language at first.

"It forced me to talk to people and become more vocal," said Chen of interviewing people for school projects and shows. "I fell in love with meeting new people and finding out what special stories they have to tell."



PHOTO BY MICHAEL PERIN

International student, Monica Chen, left her four-year-old daughter, Jenny and her husband in China to study at Conestoga College.

Even though Chen has found huge challenges, she remains positive and has accepted her role directly into the bloodstream of the college, becoming involved with the Impact Campaign. Chen became a Impact leader in hopes of meeting new people and making friends. She never realized her story could be influential and inspirational to other international students.

Life in Kitchener is a lot different than it is in China. The 30-year-old lived with her family in Shanghai, which is just inside Hong Kong plus adjacent it is to the Walling in our Kitchener. While the lower levels of pollution in Kitchener are a huge bonus, according to Chen, the main reason she loves it in Canada is that she can actually see the stars at night.

"I have not seen them in years," said Chen. "I was pleasantly surprised."

Now the semester will be over and her family will be able to visit her in Canada. Chen hopes to get a job which would mean the family would move here permanently.

Until then when Chen is feeling homesick and she can't call her family, she looks to them in the community around her at school to fill that void.

After all, Conestoga College is her home away from home.



PHOTO COURTESY

Chen with her daughter and her husband on vacation last year in Peking, P.R.

First Generation staff are here to help

By TERRY SOREN

First Generation students are those who are the first in their family to attend college, to attend post-secondary education.

"We don't limit it to three parents having taken classes in post-secondary," said Shannon Glendon, project manager of the Foreign Initiative at Cambridge College. "If they didn't get a credential of any kind — diploma, degree or trade — the student is considered first generation. It was something that was taught and so with the majority, but that is the final definition."

The initiative is designed to help students realize their full potential to overcome college expenses, navigate campus activities, adjust to college life and successfully complete their program.

All students face challenges during their journey through college, however, First Generation students are much more likely to encounter challenges such as buying sufficient funds for tuition and living expenses, completing all requirements of the college process, discovering resources or services, preparing classes, work and living responsibly and coping with all aspects of life including academics, social, emotional and financial.

In the past few months, First Generation students have been provided with bi-weekly bulletin that summarize the workshops for the upcoming weeks, and have bi-weekly meetings with students to provide maintenance and direction. They can help deal with a variety of issues.

"We support students as they go through their highs and lows of school," said Glendon. "We offer resources

opportunities — it looks good on a resume and gives students a chance to practice what they learn in the classroom."

The First Generation student advisory committee consists of students who volunteer to be the voice of the First Generation students at Cambridge.

"Being able to be involved empowered me. I have I could help myself and help my fellow students," said Janet Barrett, a second-year public relations student at Cambridge. "We been on the advisory committee ever since my start here and I do PE-related things and talk to them about strategy."

as First Generation when completing their OSCAR forms. Previously, the office was located a few doors down from the Learning Commons behind two closed doors with no signage.

"The fact that the office is now located inside the Learning Commons, it is a better sense of community because a lot of the services that FGI provides a student to be located in this very central," Barrett said.

The project is available on every campus even though they do not have a physical presence, they visit all our pages especially for workshops related to First Generation

students and can also make contact with our students from their campuses.

The First Generation office also educates a library for students who are full time during the 2011-2012 academic year have financial need that exceeds the value of the library, most OSCAR defined citizenship and residency requirements, and provide a one page survey outlining his or her experience of being the first in his or her family to participate in post-secondary studies and the challenges encountered.

Workshops will be announced in early March, and money will be distributed on March

14. "Students not there say that FGI students have a strong need for financial assistance, more than students who aren't," said Barrett.

Thirty-four per cent of First Generation students in the database who are currently enrolled in studies are considered at risk of not completing their current program.

First Generation staff and students on the advisory committee want students to know that they are here to help, regardless of the issues they are facing as a First Generation student.

Statistics out there say that FGI students have a strong need for financial assistance, more than students who aren't.

— Janet Barrett

To apply, visit the Cambridge website and click on the First Generation tab under Student Services. Once your completed form to Shannon Glendon by email or in person. Her office is located in Room 2A100 in the Learning Commons. Everyone who submits an application will be accepted. The form is just procedure.

The First Generation office is now located in the Learning Commons. "I have an open-door policy with no appointment necessary because I want it to be a friendly and welcoming environment for students," said Glendon.

Forty per cent of students in the database did not identify

Learning Groups Winter 2012 Schedule

Learning groups are free weekly study groups that are designed to help students through historically difficult courses. They offer a chance to meet with a senior student and other classmates to compare notes, discuss concepts, develop learning strategies, and prepare for exams.

This semester learning groups are offered in the following courses, all you have to do is show up!

	Day & Time	Room Number
Pre-Hybrid Biology I Leader: Jesse	Mondays Jan. 14-Apr. 13 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	1082 (Door)
SET/CET: Data Structures Leader: Justin	Fridays Jan. 26-Apr. 13 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.	1A213 (Door)
Accounting: Accounting 2 Leader: Lancelot	Fridays Feb. 3-Apr. 13 9:00a.m.-10:00a.m.	2E33 (Door)
Mechanical Systems Engineering: Physics Leader: Tom	Mondays Jan. 20-Apr. 16 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.	A2133 (Cambridge)
Architecture: Mechanics of Materials Leader: Maria	Thursdays Feb. 8-Apr. 12 11:00a.m.-12:00p.m.	A1308 (Cambridge)



Photo by David Ross

Second-year public relations student, Janet Barrett, is shown with First Generation project manager Shannon Glendon, on Feb. 20, outside Room 2A100 in the Learning Commons. The First Generation office has moved to the new location to make themselves more accessible to students.

Condors lose in shootout

By PETER BROWN

That one thing a lot for Conestoga's women's ice hockey team. A bench in the final proved uncomfortable for the lady Condors during their controversial hockey tournament, held at the recreation centre on Feb. 10. But, after a late goal and run along into a hot goalie in the shootout, Conestoga was eliminated.

In the dying moments of their semifinal game against the St. Lawrence College Vikings, the Condors were downed in a close 1-0 lead. With their goalie pulled, the Vikings scored a shifty goal. The Condors were left with just 34 seconds left in the third. The shootout was an exciting affair with players from both teams shooting at the same time as opposed to taking turns.

Vikings goalie, Amber Lapierre, stood on her head for St. Lawrence, not letting a simple push past her which sent her down in the chaotic hockey game. She was named MVP of the game. Lapierre displayed her skills once again in the final as the Vikings shot out Lester 1-0.

Brendon Coyles, fourth year coach for Conestoga, was disappointed with the game and loss but was still proud of how his team performed considering the fact that they didn't have a lot of time to practice prior to the tournament.

"The girls played well, this



PHOTO BY KEVIN BROWN

A double shootout took place at the rec centre on Feb. 10 during the semifinal game between Conestoga and St. Lawrence College. St. Lawrence won the shootout and went on to beat Wilfrid Laurier in the final.

was probably one of my best games we've played," said Coyles.

Conestoga defeated Laurier and Fleming earlier in the day and was dominating St. Lawrence for most of the game. Staph Bardi got the puck sticking for the Condors in the first period by scoring

the game's first goal on what many thought was a brilliant high stick. The following was a major area of concern for both sides and these were Newton's controversial calls and son on the play that the flow of the game.

"I was impressed," said Coyles enthusiastically. "We had

and more on these Newton's calls, more refs really care and more time. It's quite evident which ones don't pass by the calls they make."

Coyles named Ah Young who picked up an assist in the semifinal, the MVP for the Condors.

"She's the leader in the

room, she's the leader every where," he said.

The annual tournament featured college and university teams from Ontario including Wilfrid Laurier, Mohawk, St. Lawrence and Fleming. This was the final tournament of the year for extra award hockey.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Grief



You can't stop crying. You feel angry. You feel numb. These feelings are all normal reactions to loss in our lives - a reaction we call grief. Grief does not only have to be a result of losing a loved one to death. We grieve any kind of loss: the breakup of a relationship, the loss of good health or even the loss of a dream to reach a certain goal. Although these feelings are natural, it sometimes helps to talk them over with a counsellor as part of the healing process. Writing your thoughts in a journal, reading books about grief, and talking to friends can also help. Most of all, give yourself permission to grieve. Feelings left bottled up will only come out later, delaying the healing process.

If you have a friend who is grieving, don't worry about saying the wrong thing to them. Just be there, be a good listener or remind them how much you care with a card, a hug or some time together. If you are grieving a loss and would like to talk with a counsellor or find out about resources in the community, come to Counselling Services.

A Message from Counselling Services.

Conestoga box score

Week of Feb. 6 to Feb. 12,

By JEFF BROWN

Men's Volleyball:

Jan. 31: Conestoga 1, Carleton 3

Feb. 3: Conestoga 0, Nipissing 3

Overall Record: 1-17

Women's Volleyball:

Jan. 31: Conestoga 1, Carleton 3

Feb. 3: Conestoga 0, Nipissing 3

Overall Record: 0-11

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